

BROMLEY & SHEPPARDS COLLEGES



HERALD

JUNE 2023



Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

This has been a month of ups and downs. As well as the excitement of the Coronation of King Charles III, celebrated here with a special lunch, and our College Eucharist, there has been the death of Dorothy McDougall, who is much missed.



There is a picture of her, from a recent party, on the back cover.

Everything seems to be blooming in our gardens, and the Baisley beans are beginning to grow by the east wall, parts of which have been expertly rebuilt!

The deadline for the next Herald will be Friday June 30th. Please send contributions to me, preferably by email to: therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk ...

as ever, thanks to Jo, for printing and delivering the Herald each month.

Brandy Pearson

Coronation Celebrations

'What will we do to celebrate the Coronation?', some of us were asking. Then Jill Baisley said she was planning to serve Coronation Chicken at College Lunch on the Thursday before the Coronation Weekend. So, she and her team kindly agreed to make the lunch the first of our Coronation Celebrations and it was decided to offer it to Collegians as a free lunch.



Jill's team did us proud with a most delicious lunch and they and others had produced Union Jack flags,



serviettes and bunting and with Christine Latham's careful laying up of the tables, the room looked most inviting. George Baisley said Grace and included prayer for King Charles. There was a full house, the atmosphere was festive, and Collegians enjoyed the meal and relaxed conversation, with chocolates to round things off.

On Saturday, the day of the Coronation, about twelve of us gathered in the Common Room to watch the event on the large television. We began with coffee and biscuits and then after the Service we enjoyed sandwiches provided by Sue Morris and, of course some drink for a toast!

Sunday saw us taking part in a special Communion Service which had been devised by the Church of England for the occasion and Angela King presided and preached at this. We ended the Service with the National Anthem and had the usual coffee afterwards, with the addition of some Prosecco.

Finally, a small group of us gathered to watch the Windsor Concert in the Common Room, again accompanied by suitable refreshments.

Of course, other Collegians also took part in events elsewhere, or watched the events in their own flats, but the general feeling seems to have been that it was a good and memorable weekend and thanks are due to all those who enabled it to happen.

Valerie Pearce

A Tale of the Royal Family

I have only one tiny story about the royal family which my grandfather liked to dine out on in family circles and that was about the time (perhaps the only time!) when he sat next to the Queen Mother at dinner and succeeded in 'really inadvertently' directing a spurt of orange juice into her eye. Those were the days when you had to eat the fruit course with a knife and fork! Perhaps they still do. He was overcome with embarrassment at the time but loved to tell everyone about it afterwards!



1953 Memorabilia from South Africa

Angela King

The Old College Post Box



The old College post box in the Wren Tower - a bit of College history - has been looking a sad sight! It probably dates from the 1970s when men were accepted as Collegians and retired clergymen were busy writing

lots of letters and necessitated an in-house box to save them a walk in the rain to the box at the end of the drive which had served since 1870 and still does today!



The box is not a standard Post Office box (lacking a Royal Crest and an official box number) but it was made and installed by the Post Office and emptied Monday - Friday at 2.30pm and even on Good Fridays until around



1997! Collections ceased around 2011 and one of our present postmen - Shane Goodwin - remembers parking opposite the Wren Gate and running across London Road to empty it! The re-painting of the box we now use at the end of the College drive prompted several collegians to comment on the state of our old box and Collegian

Michael Hewitt took on the responsibility of cleaning it and repainting it in Post Office colours. Even the old key was found thanks to Shane's efforts, and we are most grateful to him and to Michael for the magnificent sight the box now affords. The photographs show the box as it was and as it is with Shane and Michael revealing its splendour.

Paul Allton

Easter Day – Our Easter Fire



Our Easter Day Eucharist here was led by Michael Riley, assisted by Valerie.

As has become usual, the fire was set and lit by Rob Pearson, thus keeping his pyromaniac tendencies in check.



Thank you to Janet Heatley for the photographs



Ascensiontide College Eucharist 19th May 2023

It was an uplifting experience to take part in a College Eucharist once more. Following on from the previous College Eucharist when the founder of Bromley College, Bishop John Warner's life was recounted, Angela King was persuaded by some Collegians to present us with a

fascinating account of the life of Sophia Sheppard, whose generosity enabled Sheppard's College to be built.

Based on Kathleen Craig's research into her life, Angela's talk illustrated Sophia Sheppard's extensive generosity not only here but in funding the building of a church on the outskirts of Reading, and a school and another alms house in Amport where she and her husband lived. She was a deeply devout Christian woman shown by the fact that, after her very wealthy husband's death, she chose to live very simply, despite her enormous inheritance. This money was given to the church and to the poor and distressed.

The readings used at the service were very apposite to the character and person of Sophia. The hymn, Christ Triumphant, written by late Collegian, Michael Seward was one of those chosen.

The choir, augmented slightly by one or two others sang in unison and as usual Michael played enormous skill and dignity which also fitted the occasion. The concluding sentence of Angela's talk about Sophia Sheppard read, *"May she rest in peace and rise in glory, as she was a very good example of someone who loved God with all her heart and her neighbour as herself. May we endeavour to follow her in that respect."*

So often I've attended services which seemed to be rather a hotchpotch of different elements. There was a unity and continuity about this service which I find rare.

In a sense, Ascensiontide provides a continuity between Easter and Pentecost, earth and heaven, God's continuing presence experienced differently.

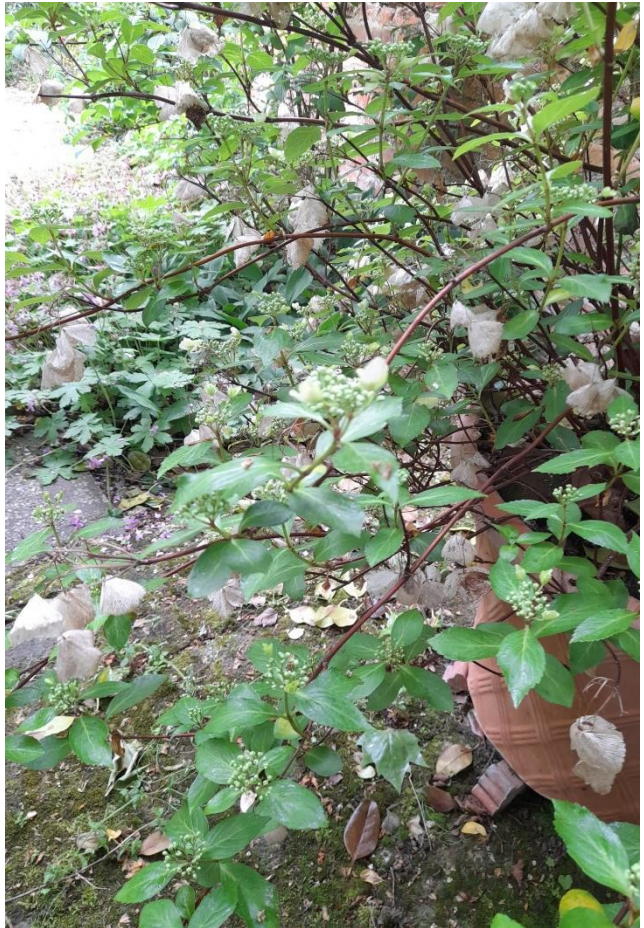
To complete our sense of unity there were drinks and nibbles in the Common Room!
(Are there some other lives of benefactors to be explored next time?)
Christine Latham

The Runaway Bride Comes Again

Paul and Ruth's wonderful plant, called the Runaway Bride, has been moved to the corner by the new bench near the Slip Gate.

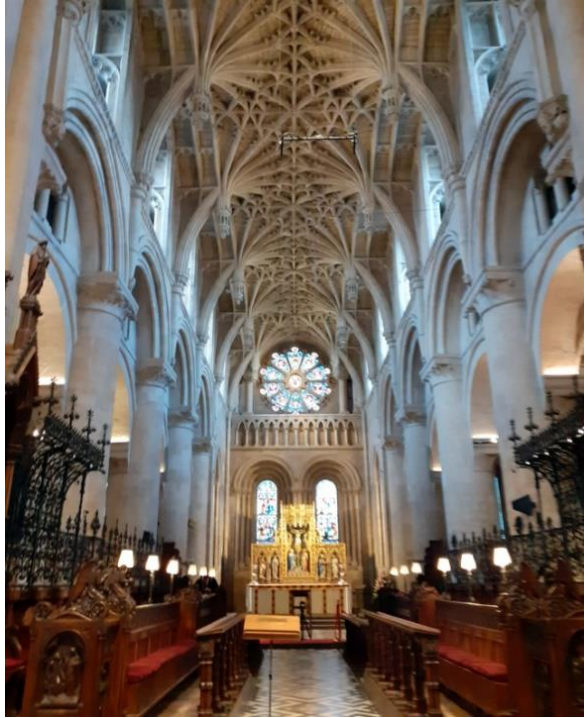
The new buds are growing, and just beginning to unfurl. However, we continue to enjoy last year's flowers, that are now more a reminder of Miss Haversham than a young bride!

Brandy Pearson



Oxford

Michael Hewitt and I spent a few days in Oxford, staying at Fairacres Convent which is off the Iffley Road. We managed to fit in many things apart from mass in the morning, lunch in the refectory and compline. These included evensong at Christ Church, a visit to the Bodleian Library, the



University Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, Iffley church and even a drink at the Trout Inn. But the highlight was Magdalen College, especially evensong in the

chapel. I was able to visit the dining hall and saw the portrait of our founder, Bishop John Warner who was a fellow of Magdalene. Unfortunately, the picture is very



high up and so difficult to photograph but I could recognise him from the

portrait in our chapel.

Clare Preston



The Joys of the Victoria and Albert Museum

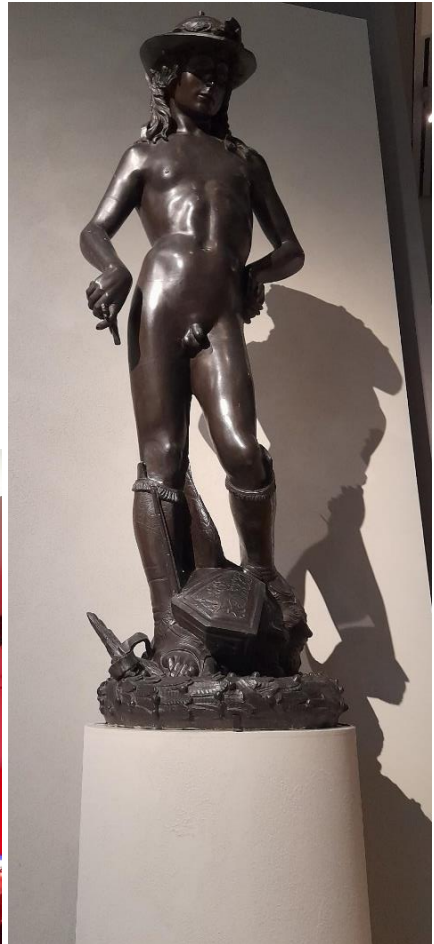
Now that we are going out more, we returned this week to the V & A. We love the huge variety of objects and exhibitions there. We visited two wildly different exhibitions, the works of Donatello and his contemporaries, and "Hallyu" about contemporary culture in South Korea. From the Donatello exhibition, we both loved this statue of Madonna and child, such a realistic baby, sucking his



thumb. The golden face, which represents God the Father, was impressively huge and beautifully lit. My favourite piece was the copy of the statue of David, which I much

prefer to that of Michelangelo. Maybe it is his fetching hat!

The exhibition from South Korea included video screens, music, film posters and extracts, clothing and a wonderful artwork (below) based on the struggle between Michael the



archangel and Lucifer. (Can you find the cat?) So much to reflect a vibrant culture.

Brandy & Rob Pearson



Dorothy McDougall R.I.P.

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